

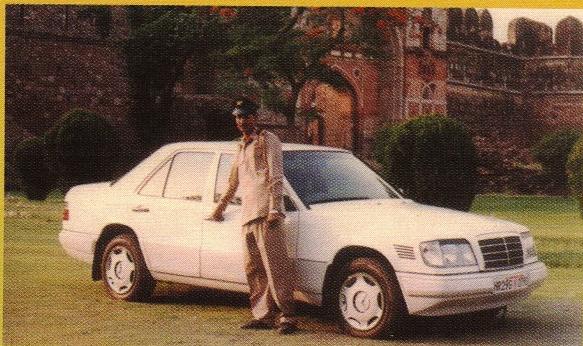
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4

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NETWORK**

DECEMBER 2000

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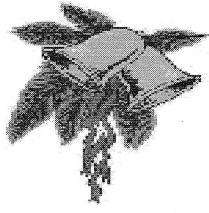
Phone: 4690837, 4646740

Mobile : 9811089932, 9810095290

TeleFax: 4631351

E-mail : statexp@del2.vsnl.net.in

MERRY CHRISTMAS from your Delhi Network Board



"I'd Miilad Said Oua Sana Saida"
"Tchestita Koleda"
"Nollaig Shona Dhí"

"Saint Dan Fai Lok"
"Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Plsun"
"Srecna Nova Godina I Srecan Bozic"

"Feliz Natal e Prospero mat"
"Glaedelig Jul"
"Froehliche Weihnachten"
"Joyeux Noel!"

"Kellemes Karacsonyi ummepeket"
"Glaedileg Jo"
"Mo'admin Lesimka. Chena tova"
"S Rozhdestvom"
"Sung Tan Chuck Ha"
"Meri Kurisumasu"
"Seleamat Hari Natal:
"Sawadee Pee Mai"
"Cestitamo Bozic"
"Nadolig Llawen"

"Hyvaa joulua"
"Srozhestvom Kristovym"
"Glaedelig Jul og glaedelig nytar"
"Shug Naya Baras"
"Buone Feste Natalizie"
"God Jul:"

Delhi Network

Board Members

Executive Committee

President	Brenda Beards	614-0519
Vice President	Jeannine Grant	614-2672
Secretary	Rachael Hofmann	9810080368
Treasurer	Anita Reid	680-5967

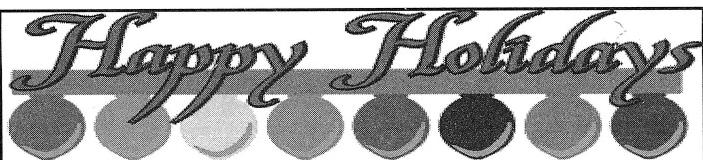
Committee Chairpersons

Charity	Minnie Butalia	649-5251
Diplomatic Liaison	Leena Hanevold	688-5508
Handbook	TBA	
Membership	Sue Lohage	622-3344
Newcomers	Sue Kaliral	680-5672 9810162272
Newsletter	Kathy Pritchard	686-2245 9811118958
Office Manager	Sandra Buhler	614-3115 (Office 679-1234 ext. 1505)
Programs/Social	Jackie van Ommeren Symran Wasser	680-2136 9810092725

Delhi Network is a non-profit organisation whose main purpose is to support the expatriates living and working in New Delhi. Everyone on the Board and the committees volunteer their time.

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Christmas
by Lalia Mitchell

O merry is the Christmas time
With holly berries bright,
With festal board and treasure stored
In stockings soft and white.

And blessed is the Christmas time
With music such as rang
A glorious strain o'er Bethlehem's plain
When angel voices sang.

O, joyful is the Christmas time,
Each heart from grief beguiled,
But all the year hath a Christmas cheer
For him that loves a child.

(From an old newspaper clipping found in an old book.)

Sue Lohage has kindly agreed to Edit the January Newsletter , please try and send in some articles drop them into the office or E-mail them to:

Lohage@vsnl.com

Web site:

<http://www.delhinetwork.org/default.htm>



**PLEASE NOTE: The office will be closed
from: 23rd Dec to 1st Jan 2001**

Thank you
Kathy Pritchard.

Delhi Network meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Entrance to a meeting is Rs 150 for members and Rs 200 for non-members. Annual membership is Rs 300 . You can become a member at any monthly meeting or at the Delhi Network office.

Delhi Network Handbooks are available for purchase at all meetings or at the office: cost Rs 300 for members and Rs 400 for non-members.

The Delhi Network office is located in the Hyatt's Shopping Arcade. The Office Manager is Sandra Buhler. Office hours are 10 am to 2 pm, Monday to Friday. Stop in for free advice, a newsletter or a Delhi Network Handbook if you missed the last meeting, or to drop off your newsletter contributions. We are seeking volunteers to work in the office. If you're interested (and it is a good way to meet new people), contact Sandra.

Delhi Network does not necessarily endorse or recommend the businesses advertised in this newsletter and the Board claims the right to refuse any advertisers who have had several complaints made against them by our members.

From Your vice President



Well, Brenda is in Hong Kong doing her Xmas shopping,(I hope she remembers my Xmas pudding.) and Kathy needs some words of wisdom for the front page of the magazine-before she gets back. So it is left to me to pen a few lines.

People keep talking about Xmas as if it is imminent, and it was a shock to look at the calendar today and see it is December the 1st .In the UK Xmas starts in September, and you can't ignore it---how nice to miss out on all the commercialism. I have bought my cards, and was delighted to find a wide choice of good quality Charity cards.

We have been here for a year now, and have not only survived, but are actually enjoying living in this interesting, but exasperating city. Part of this must be due to my involvement in Delhi Network.., and I know I am not alone in finding it a really good organization for spreading information and friendship. I had a phone call from France yesterday, asking for the address of our website, such is our fame!!!!

In the next few months we will be looking for new people interested in being involved in Delhi Network. Don't panic, as I did when approached-it is very much a 'team' effort and there is always someone around who can help when you need advice. So if you think you could give some of your time and talent to help with, and even improve the running of Delhi Network, don't be shy.

This is the month you never seem to have a free evening or weekend, there is just so much to do, and so many enticing ways to spend money, as the Mela season is upon us. Many of you will be packing your bargains into bulging suitcases, and heading off to celebrate Xmas with families abroad. We wish you clear skies, and hassle-free travel.

I am sure the rest of the committee would like to join me in wishing all Delhi Network members a very Happy festive season, and a healthy , peaceful New Year.

Jeannine.

Neighbourhood Co-ordinators

Your co-ordinator is here to help you settle into your new home. Give her a call and introduce yourself and find out who else lives in your area and when the next meeting is going to be held.

AREAS	CO-ORDINATOR	PHONE
Vasant Vihar/ Vasant Kunj	Nora Twycross	612-2318
West End/Shanti Niketan/ Anand Niketan/Aradhana Enclave/Safdarjung Enclave	Terri Levan	467-1819
Chanakyapuri Barakamba Road	Bernadette MacDonald-Raggett	687-2161 Ext: 2328
Greater Kailash I & 2	Kate Schaller	464-5156
Neeti Bagh/Gulmohar Park Defence Colony/Udai Park Anand Lok		
Jorbagh/Golf Links/Sunder Nagar Judit Stowe		9811210438
Prithviraj Road/Aurangzeb Rd.		
Panshcheel Park/ Haus Khas/ Green Park/Padmini Enclave/ Shivalik Navjivan Vihar/ Qutab Enclave/Mayfair Gardens/ Sarva Priya Vihar	Risham Chawla	649-7025
New Friends Colony/ Friends Colony East/ Friends Colony West Maharani Bagh	Trudy Brasell-Jones	632-3422
Sainik Farms	Vacant	
Chattarpur/Jonapur/Gadaipur	Monica Modak	680-9365
Bijwasan/Rajokri/Supriya Vihar Alicia Odedra Gurgaon		506-4777

For more information, please contact Jackie van Ommen on 680-2136.

Support Groups by Nationality

American Women's Association (AWA):
American passport holders or their spouses can join. Call the AWA office at 419-8000 ext. 4131 or 8509 between 9 am and 4.30 pm Mon-Fri. Talk to Barnali or an AWA officer.

Australia and New Zealand Association:
Call Christine Evans on 687-6605 or Ingrid Crookshanks, 680-4586

British Expats Group:
Contact Sylvia Johnson on 460-3851.

Nederlandse Vereniging New Delhi:
Organiseert diverse evenementen en een maandelijkse borrel. Als je lid wilt worden, of gewoon informatie wilt, bel Nanette Hulshof op 460-1660 of Gerco de Jong op 688-4951(off)/614-9704 (res).

NORA (Nordic Association)
Contact names:
Eva Dieden (Sweden) 687-5760
Anne Laipil (Finland) 614-4602
Kirsten Callinggaard (Denmark)
689-2401



Please do not forget to send in to Sue Lohage all your interesting, funny and unusual Christmas and New Year stories before the 5th of January. Thank you Kathy.

E-mail: Lohage@vsnl.com

Web site: <http://www.delhinetwork.org/default.htm>

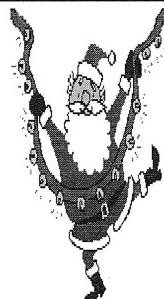
THERE ARE STILL 1 VACANCY FOR A NEIGHBOURHOOD LEADER. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER , PLEASE CONTACT JACKIE VAN OMMEN OR BRENDA BEARDS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 12th December

**Delhi Network Meeting
& Christmas Lunch
(Members only)**

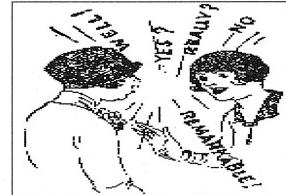
Hyatt Regency Poolside
10 AM Meeting Followed by
Christmas Lunch at 12. PM



Tuesday 16th January

Delhi Network Meeting

Hyatt Regency Hotel
10 AM Meeting



Just a thought.....

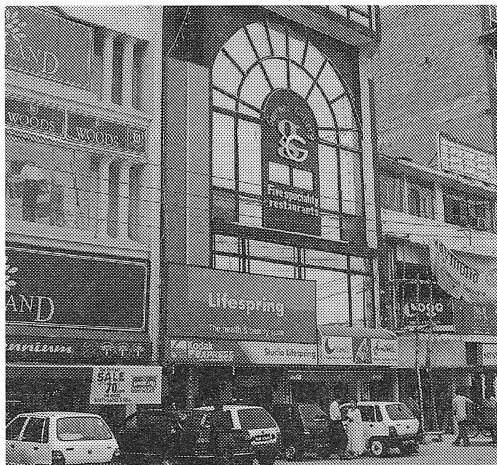
What would have happened if it had been three Wise Women instead
of three Wise Men?

They would have:

Asked directions,
Arrived on time,
Helped deliver the baby,
Cleaned the stable,
Made a casserole,
And brought practical gifts.

But what would they have said when they left...?
"Did you see the sandals Mary was wearing with that gown?"
"That baby doesn't look anything like Joseph!"
"Virgin, what a laugh, I knew her in school!"
"Can you believe that they let all of those disgusting animals in the house?"
"I heard that Joseph isn't even working right now!"
"And that donkey that they are riding has seen better days too!"
"Want to bet on how long it will take until you get your casserole dish back?"

Brenda Beards



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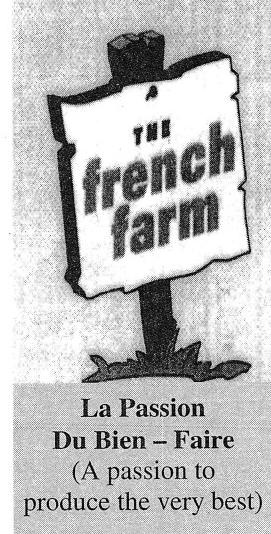


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Unheard they cry
In agony they linger
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How Things Really Are!!!

Workplace Wisdom

1. I can only please one person per day. Today is not your day. Tomorrow doesn't look good either.
2. I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.
3. Tell me what you need, and I'll tell you how to get along without it.
4. Accept that some days you are the pigeon and some days the statue.
5. Needing someone is like needing a parachute. If he isn't there the first time, chances are you won't be needing him again.
6. I don't have an attitude problem, you have a perception problem.
7. Last night I lay in bed looking up at the stars in the sky and I thought to myself, where the heck is the ceiling?
8. My reality check bounced.
9. On the keyboard of life, always keep one finger on the escape key.
10. I don't suffer from stress, but I am a carrier.
11. You are slower than a herd of turtles stampeding through peanut butter.
12. Do not meddle in the affairs of dragons, because you are crunchy and taste good with ketchup.
13. Everybody is somebody else's weirdo.
14. Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level then beat you with experience.
15. A pat on the back is only a few centimetres from a kick in the butt.
16. Don't be irreplaceable - if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
17. After any salary raise, you will have less money at the end of the month than you did before.
18. The more crap you put up with, the more crap you are going to get.
19. You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.
20. Eat one live toad first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you for the rest of the day.
21. When bosses talk about improving productivity, they are never talking about themselves.
22. If at first you don't succeed, try again. Then quit. No use being a damned fool about it.
23. There will always be beer cans rolling on the floor of your car when the boss asks for a ride home from the office.
24. Everything can be filed under 'miscellaneous'.
25. Never delay the ending of a meeting or the beginning of a cocktail hour.
26. To err is human, to forgive is not our policy.
27. Anyone can do any amount of work provided if its not the work he/she is supposed to be doing.
28. Important letters that contain no errors will develop errors in the mail.
29. If you are good, you will be assigned all the work. If you are really good, you will get out of it.
30. You are always doing something marginal when the boss drops by your desk.
31. People who go to conferences are the ones who shouldn't.
32. If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.
33. At work, the authority of a person is inversely proportional to the number of pens that person is carrying.
34. When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.
35. Following the rules will not get the job done.
36. Getting the job done is no excuse for not following the rules.
37. 37. When confronted by a difficult problem you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, "How would the Lone Ranger handle this?"
38. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

Christmas Gifts

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A Little Story

Once upon a time there was a Prince who through no fault of his own was cast under a spell by an evil witch. The curse was that the Prince could only say one word each year.

However, he could save up the words so that if he did not speak for a whole year, then he was allowed to speak two words. One day he met a beautiful princess and fell in love. With the greatest difficulty he decided to refrain from speaking for two whole years so that he could look at her and say "my darling".

But at the end of the two years he wanted to tell her he loved her. Because of this he waited three more years without speaking.

But at the end of these five years he realized he wanted her to marry him. Therefore, he waited another four years without speaking.

Finally as the ninth year of silence ended, his joy knew no bounds. Leading the lovely princess to the most secluded and most romantic place in the beautiful royal garden the prince heaped a hundred red roses on her lap knelt before her and said huskily, "My darling will you marry me?" The princess tucked a strand of golden hair behind her dainty ear, opened her ruby red lips and said, "I'm sorry, I missed that. **What did you say**

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Notice board

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The high standard servants quarter is occupied by our equally high standard Cook, John who is excellent with every kind of continental, Chinese and Goan dishes not to mention his sweets... His wife Lena is a real trouble shooting person. She organizes all necessary things to be done, and does all the housework for our full satisfaction. Her English is excellent. We really would like to take them with us - unfortunately it is not an option where we are moving .

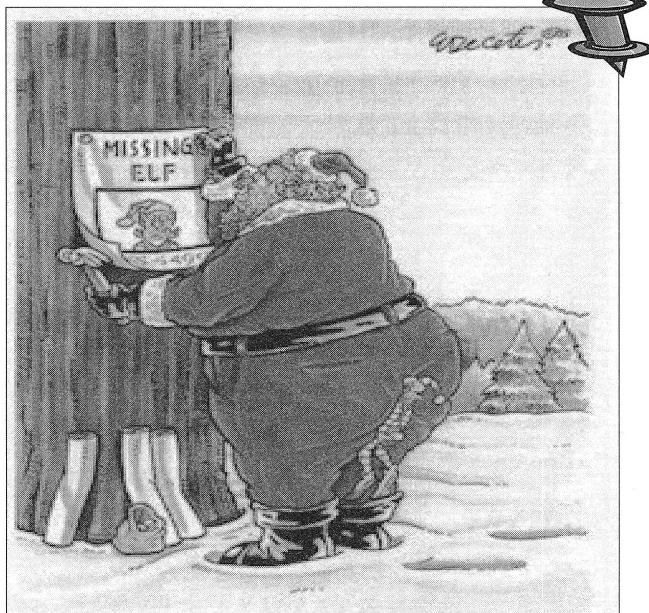
We would love to find someone to take over both for our beloved apartment and our above mentioned excellent staff if it is possible.

For inquiries please call: Judit Stowe 98112-10438
Rakesh Gupta 98100-14028

LOOKING FOR

Second Hand Outdoor Games for children (Swings.....etc.)

Kindly contact Alain or Veronique.
9810095280 or 9810181792



THE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS

*The SIX most important words are,
"I admit I make a mistake":*

*The FIVE most important words are,
"You did a good job"*

*The FOUR most important words are,
"What is your opinion?"*

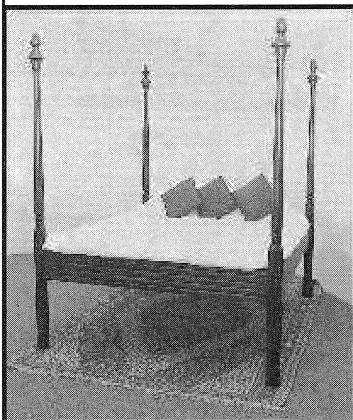
*The Three most important words are,
"If you please"*

*the two most important words are,
"Thank you"*

The least most important word is "I"

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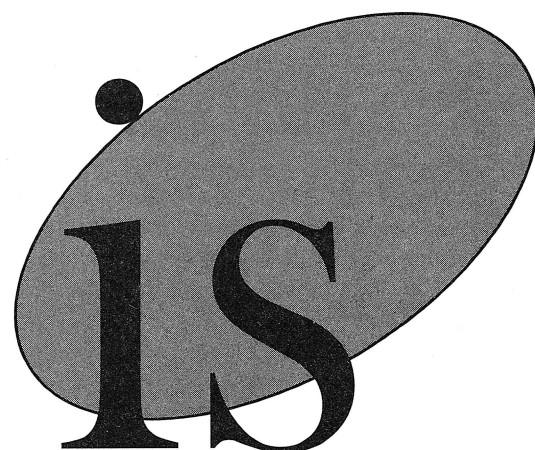
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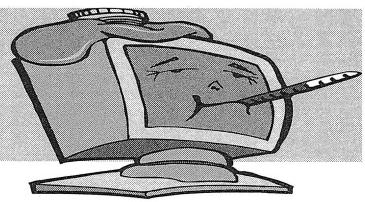
D-428 Defence Colony,

New Delhi 110024

Tel : 469-1164, 462-7419

Mobile : 98100 28909

COMPUTER PAGE.



Q:

I have a digital camera that plugs into my computer. Do I have to shut the computer off each time I plug / unplug it?

A:

Never plug (or unplug) any component into (or out of) a running computer unless it connects via a USB cable. USB devices are designed to be plugged in and out when a computer is running. The rest of your ports & devices are not.

If you do plug or unplug a component when the computer is running, you may not have a problem. The first time. Or even the second. But you will eventually. It can range from just locking the computer up to blowing out a board.

Q:

If you get the error message, "This program has preformed an illegal operation and will be shut down". Why does this keep happening?

A:

It can happen for a variety of reasons. Most of the time it's due to a software conflict of some sort, usually with a program that's running in the background.

If you find you have a bunch of stuff sitting in your system tray (it's the little box opposite the Start button on the taskbar), you may find that shutting down some of those programs will help tremendously (most have an option to shut down if you right-click their icon). It's usually one of them that are the culprit (Real Player causes *lots* of problems), especially if the program with the problem seems to be the only thing running.

You can also use the CTRL-ALT-DEL key combination to shut programs down manually, but you also run the risk of accidentally shutting your computer down (Don't close Explorer or Systray). Only do this after you've shut down all your system try icons and are continuing to have problems

If you shut all of those background programs down and still haven't resolved the conflict, you may have a Windows driver that's messing things up. Try booting to Safe Mode and running the program. (To get to Safe Mode, hit the F8 key just as Windows starts to boot, before the first Windows loading screen comes up). If all works well in safe mode, you may have to re-install or update your drivers.

Another possibility is the program has a corrupted file. Try uninstalling then re-installing the program.

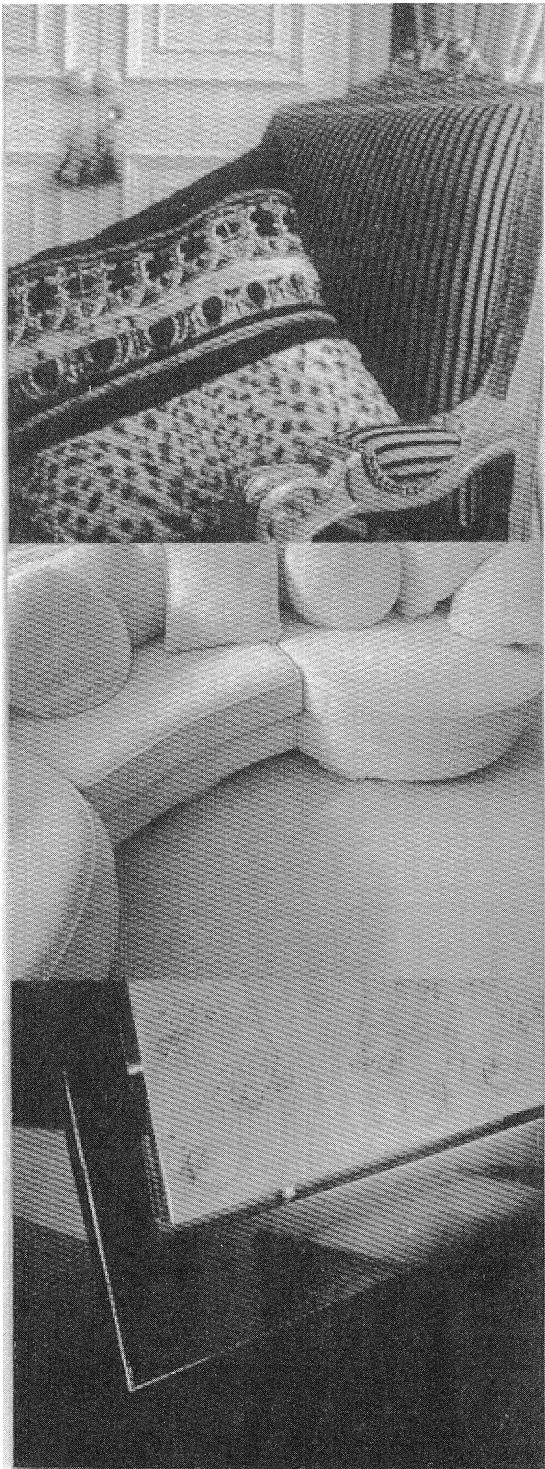
If you're still having problems, contact the program's vender and see if they know what's going on. Although they may not be able to help you, it's still worth a try. Keep in mind that every computer is as unique as you and I once we start using it, so sometimes even the guy who wrote the program wouldn't know why it's causing a problem on your machine and no one else's.

Taking the steps above usually can solve the problem of illegal operation. Don't panic if you see this error message crop up from time to time at random intervals. It happens, usually after Windows has been running awhile without a re-boot. Only take the actions above if the problem appears every time, or almost every time, you use a particular program.

~Tip of the month

Open Document Trick

Do you use Word or WordPerfect? If you have several documents open at once, and you want to switch between them, you probably go to the "Window" menu and select the document you want. Well, there's a cool little shortcut key that you can use. If you hold down the ALT key and press F6, you'll switch between open document windows. Who knew? Oh, this works for more than just word processors. Try it with any office type program that support more than one open document (i.e. uses a MDI).



Inline is an international design company based in the UK, with offices newly opened in New Delhi. We have had many years of experience working with Indian manufacturers and now boast excellent facilities of our own and an extensive work force of trained and highly skilled craftsmen.

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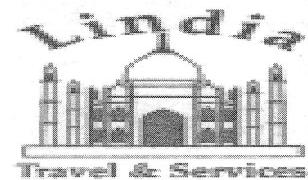
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Shekhawati Safari
Experience rural India in the desert
27 / 28 / 29 January 2001



Since the first Shekhawati safari in November was received so well by the participants, here is your second chance to have a great experience of true Indian hospitality and life in the country side.

This three days / two nights weekend package is specially compiled for foreigners based in Delhi and their families. **Lindia Travel & Services** takes you off the commercial tourist route and gives you the experience of local life in the desert of Shekhawati, which used to be a part of the Silk Route. You can still see the remains of the rich past in the trades mans mansions and haveli's, decorated with fresco's. On camel back you will experience the life of the local villagers in Shekhawati and the sound of silence in the desert.

All this you will enjoy in comfort under the guidance of your Dutch tour escort, Linda Schouten-Hukku, who is involved in tourism in India since the past ten years.

The program in brief:

Saturday, 27th of January : New Delhi - Jhunjunu – Mandawa – Nawalgarh

Departure from Delhi at 6.30 hours AM by deluxe AC coach from the Hyatt hotel. Lunch on the way in Jhunjunu. In approx. seven hours we reach Mandawa, one of the main townships in Shekhawati, where you will see the famous Haveli's and the Mandawa castle. From here a short drive to Nawalgarh, where we stay at Roop Niwas Palace, a blend between colonial and Rajput architecture. This hotel is run by the family who owns the palace and the family members are actively involved in making you feel comfortable, which gives this place a very personal atmosphere. In the evening dinner with entertainment at Roop Niwas.

Sunday, 28th of January : Camel Safari

In the morning one hour optional horse riding. After breakfast sightseeing of Nawalgarh. Lunch at the Roop Niwas hotel. In the afternoon we go through the desert and small villages of Shekhawati on camel back. The safari is in the experienced hands of descendants of Royal Families of Shekhawati. We will have the opportunity to actively communicate with local villagers. All meals and evening tea are taken care of. A private Royal tented camp with toilet and bathing provisions accommodates us for the night. A bonfire and entertainment by musicians brightens up the evening under the clear desert sky.

Those, who do not like to camp, can still enjoy the safari and go back to the hotel by jeep for the night. On Sunday morning cycles will be available to them.

Monday, 29th of January : Nawalgarh – New Delhi

After breakfast a short ride to Roop Niwas where we have a few rooms available for wash and change. At Roop Niwas time to relax and to wander around the palace, its gardens and horse stables. After lunch we board the coach and leave for New Delhi, where we reach the Hyatt hotel in the evening.

The costs for this all inclusive package:

Adults : 9500 INR pp (twin sharing) Single supplement : 1000 INR

Children below the age of twelve : 3500 INR (sharing room, tent, camel with parents.)

Children of the age twelve and above: 9500 INR

Advance non refundable payment in cash to be made at the time of booking:

2500 INR for adults and 1000 INR for children. The rest to be paid in cash at departure.

Horse riding, beer, hard liquor, tips to be paid extra. Max 25 travelers, min 14 travelers.

For booking and detailed information call Linda at 6521477 or 6568902.

Lindia Travel & Services : N47 Sainik Farms New Delhi.

E-mail: lindiahws@satyam.net.in

NATURE

Snakes Alive

India has been the land of snakes and snake charmers for centuries, and many Indians worship the snake. Yet many fear these creatures and this results in their being treated with great cruelty, often for the benefit of unsuspecting tourists.

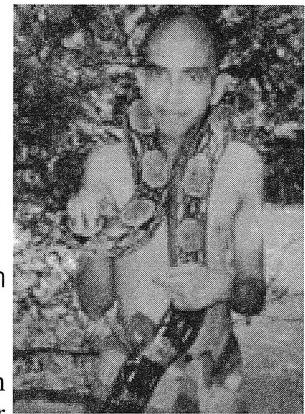
Before I go any further let me tell you India has 238 species of snakes. Of this only a fraction are poisonous and only four fatal. The Cobra, Krait, Russel's Viper and the Saw-scaled viper make up the 'Big Four'.

Most snakes have bad eyesight and are actually deaf, responding only to vibrations from the ground. They use their tongue to detect prey and enemies but are scared of humans and will try to escape if confronted. If you confront a snake, don't kill it. Even the Big Four will be most happy to slither away from you! Stories of revengeful snakes are just that - stories! Snakes' brains are so small they do not recall much that happens. They live by their instincts instead.

So, back to tourism and snakes. Snake charmers are found in places like the Anjuna flea market and Old Goa's St. Francis Xavier Church. Here tourists are attracted to posing for photos with 'deadly snakes' or watching snake dances. The snake charmers are poor folk who catch snakes and exhibit them to make a living. They usually have 2-3 cobras, a python and a rat snake. Since cobras are venomous their fangs are brutally removed and their poison glands cut-so much for deadly creatures! Without their glands the snakes starve to death, which may take anything up to seven months. Most foreigners are under the impression that the snakes are being charmed by the music. Charmed, my foot! Snakes sit up as a defensive reaction to the torture they are put through. It is pure self-defence from a frightened and stressed creature. Other snakes fare no better. Pythons have their mouths stitched together so they cannot bite those provoking them.

Some snakes are force fed eggs and milk, food they would never eat in the wild. This keeps them on edge and therefore moving -a happy snake would much prefer to be lying still. Even in the best zoos snakes die from mistreatment. If you want to help put an end to this needless cruelty, please do not encourage the snake charmers with your patronage. If they stop making money, these cruel tricks will be no more. Remember it is an offence to catch, hunt, kill or keep snakes. If you want to know more about snakes, read about them and visit snake parks where they are cared for properly. Do your bit to discourage these cruel practices. Holiday photos are the real illusion here these are neither dangerous nor charmed creatures, just very unhappy ones.

(From "The Green Goa Tourist Guide" brought out by Goa Foundation)



A Participant's Thoughts on the Three Day Outing to Nawalgarh, Rajasthan. November 24, 25 and 26, 2000

India is the land of the elephant and the tiger, but in Rajasthan State the camel reigns supreme. Well, he is not exactly king, for he is made to plough the land, pull heavy carts and now, in modern times, carry excited tourists through the narrow country lanes. Anna-Ruth, my daughter of ten, who came with me on Linda Schouten's camel safari, shared a camel with me. All others, fourteen of them, had their own camel.

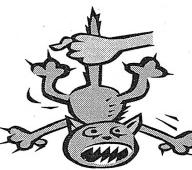
I was very impressed with the symbiosis of camel, tree and man. The kedgeri tree is a thorny desert tree that dots the landscape like marbles strewn across the floor. Gardens, fields, small farms and country roads looked manicured and verdant in the midst of this desert. The camel eats leaf and thorn from the twigs that are harvested when the kedgeri is pruned. The farmer uses these camel-cleaned twigs to weave fences and gates. The second growth wood is used for firewood. Camels are unwilling and moody and make a lot of noise at times, but the camel drivers are patient and get them to do their work.

Two things stand out from this beautiful trip to Roop Niwas Palace in Nawalgarh, Rajasthan.

The approachability of the owner of the palace and his staff -he spoke beautiful and clear English and was knowledgeable about all things Rajasthan- and the many pleasant surprises that came our way and gave us all a very generous feeling.

Last but not least, the food was delicious, healthy and fresh and the friendly companionship in our group could not have been better. Thank you, Linda and Devendra!

Ina Beckman



INSTRUCTIONS FOR GIVING YOUR CAT A PILL

1. Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.
4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call friend.
6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get friend to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down remove ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail; get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered Doulton figures from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
8. Wrap cat in large towel and get friend to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply band-aid to friend's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
10. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessertspoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot.
Throw Tee shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
12. Ring fire brigade to retrieve cat from tree across the road. Apologize to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil-wrap.
13. Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed, hold cat's mouth open with small spanner. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet of steak. Hold head vertically and pour pint of water down throat to wash pill down.
14. Get friend to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.
15. Arrange for SPCA to collect cat. Ring local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

Just For Grins

IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER

by Erma Bombeck

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained, or the sofa faded.

I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television-and more while watching life.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's.". more "I'm sorry's" .but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute...look at it and really see it , live it. and never give it back.

Stop sweating the small stuff. Don't worry about who doesn't like you, who has more, or who's doing what. Instead, let's cherish the relationships we have with those who do love us. Let's think about what God has blessed us with,, and what we are doing each day to promote ourselves mentally, physically, emotionally, as well as spiritually.

Life is too short to let it pass you by.

We only have one shot at this and then it's gone.

I hope you all have a blessed day.



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"He did a thorough and efficient job and as things turned out, he was able to get more money for us than we could have done ourselves. Please feel free to use his services as we highly recommend him. If you would like to question me further, please write to me at sharonb@poboxes.com"
Sharon Bloyer, IT Manager, American Embassy School

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A Fish's Guide to Scuba Divers

Story by Charles Ballinger

Illustrations by Joe De La Torre

Lets face it, we're not the
only creatures in the sea trying to figure out
what we're looking at

W

ith the growing popularity of scuba diving and the wide assortment of divers underwater, just imagine how tough it is for the poor fish. They never know when they should look, pose or swim away. Without a guide, how can a fish tell the difference between the basically harmless Novice Diver and the potentially harmful Macho Diver? They look the same to the untrained eye, but there are differences. Here is the beginning of a Fish's Guide to Scuba Divers. Maybe the next step is a Project AWARE Diver ID course !!!

The Family of Divus Scubacious

The Fashion Queen



IDENTIFICATION: Generally speaking, most but not all members of this species are female. Easily identified by brightly coloured and matching wet suit, mask, fins, snorkel, BCD and weights. Often dives with earrings and eye makeup, Clownfish-wannabe..

ATTITUDE: "If it doesn't come in pink, this lady won't sink."

DANGER LEVEL:

Low — based on possible exposure to toxic makeup and perfume.

DIVE PROFILE:

Wherever the dive master points.

The Little Old Lady From Pasadena

IDENTIFICATION: Elderly females. Deceptive appearance. Often found on shark dive trips. Usually better on air than macho divers.

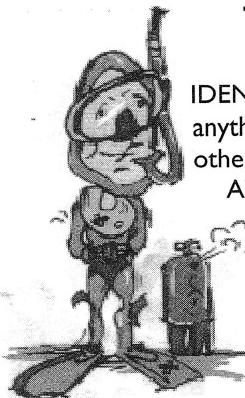
ATTITUDE: Nothing like a shot of Metamucil, Ex-lax, Geritol with my Nitrox.

DANGER LEVEL: Low. Extremely cordial>

DIVE PROFILE: As competent as any of the above.



The Rag-Tag Old-Timer



IDENTIFICATION: wet suit in shreds, basic gear, no accessories. Wouldn't consider buying anything new. His worn out knees and shredded gear are his merit badges. Known to judge other divers by how nice their gear looks.

ATTITUDE; "My tank is funky, my wet suit is worn, I bought this regulator before you were born.."

DANGER LEVEL: Relatively low, due to arthritis and other ailments.

The Hunter

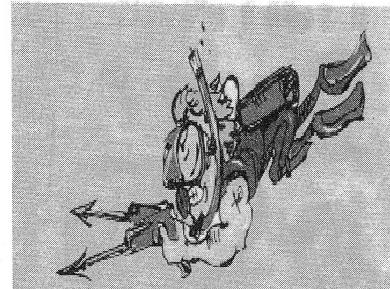
IDENTIFICATION: Stripped down gear, long hose to dump tank and crawl into lobster holes, spear-guns, etc. (AKA Rambo of the seas)

ATTITUDE: "If it moves, it's mine."

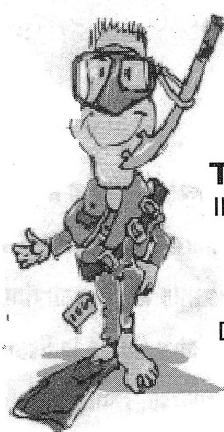
DANGER LEVEL: High. Avoid at all costs.

Predatory

DIVE PROFILE: Our favourite hangouts.



The Novice

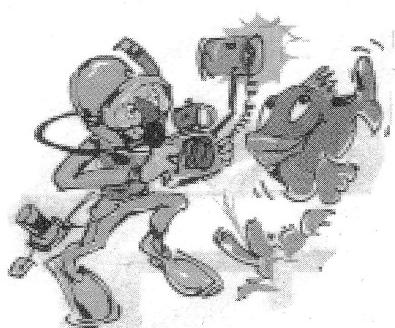


IDENTIFICATION: Easily identified by rental numbers on wet suit. Usually suits up a hour before the dive, only to discover at the last moment dive gear is assembled wrongly.

ATTITUDE "Wow, did you see all those fish and funny plants on the bottom?"

DANGER LEVEL: None. Strictly for entertainment. Caution: Watch out for falling weight belts.

DIVE PROFILE: What's that?

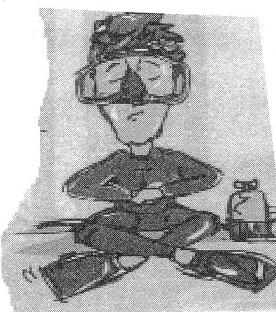


Underwater Photographer

IDENTIFICATION: Male or female. Carries one, maybe two cameras, two or three strobes, light meters, etc. Spends hours fussing with gear, sometimes antisocial.

ATTITUDE: "My next shot will be on the cover of *National Geographic*"

DANGER LEVEL: Low, Strictly paparazzi.



The Party Diver

IDENTIFICATION: Often naked before even entering the water. These divers are loud and travel in packs. Underwater, they yell "yee-haw" into their regulators.

ATTITUDE: "Let's party, dudes."

DANGER LEVEL high. This species is known to walk on coral, emit toxic gases from their wet suits and vomit underwater.

DIVE PROFILE Known to descend a wall, get naked and forget to add air to BCD.

POSSIBLE ENCOUNTER DEPTH:
0-1000 metres/0-3000 feet.

The Zen Diver

IDENTIFICATION. Very quiet, meditates and breathes on the boat. Uses very little air,

ATTITUDE "It's way cool man,"

DANGER LEVEL: None, AKA Scuba Buddha. Fun to stare into their masks cross-eyed, just to freak them out.

DIVE PROFILE: Usually seen hovering motionless, three metres/10feet off the bottom. Likes drift dives for relaxing change of scenery

SPORTS



Delhi Hash House Harriers

Regular runs on Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Family runs on some Sundays. Call the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) at the British High Commission on 687-2161



Ballooning

Ballooning Club of India, 8B Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, 331-7977.



Bowling

Facilities at Qutab Hotel, Little Paradise (12/7 Mathura Road, Faridabad), Bawa Sports Complex (Kishangarh, Mehrauli), Leisure Bowl (Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, Vasant Kunj); and First Bowl at 32nd Milestone Complex (Delhi-Jaipur Bypass, Gurgaon).



Cycle Tours

Amar Jeet Singh 336-5358, 336-3607
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Pedal Boating

Old Fort moat, India Gate moat 9 am to 6 pm. Rs. 40 per half-hour.



Rock Climbing

At the Adventure Park, Lado Sarai natural rocks. 9 am to 1 pm, September to December. Rs. 55 per head per day.

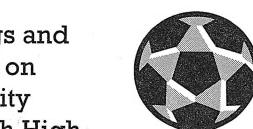
Rock climbing can also be done at Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF), Anand Niketan which has 3 artificial walls built to international specifications.

Rates: Casual, Rs. 100 per day (including equipment and instruction). Annual, Rs. 300 plus Rs. 30 per month (including equipment and instruction).



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Football

Various embassies have joined together to form a soccer competition. Contact your Embassies for details.



Gliding

Daily rides from 1 pm til sunset every day except Wednesdays. At Delhi Gliding Club, Safdarjung Airport (phone 463-8052). Cost of flight per person Rs. 75.



Golf

Delhi Golf Club
Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, tel. 436-2768 or 436-2235



Polo

Army Polo & Riding Club,
Tel: 569-9444/555
The Indian Polo Association,
Tel: 301-5604
Polo Season: October-February



Ladies Open Tennis at AES

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8.30-11.30 at the American Embassy clay courts (entry Gate 3). No need to call first. If you know how to play, just turn up with your racket, ready to enjoy the game and the company. Players at all levels (other than absolute beginners) are most welcome. Lessons for beginners are available through the DLTA (details given below). Get started and then come along too!

Delhi Lawn Tennis Association, Africa Avenue, Telephone 617-6140 or 619-3955



Sailing

Defence Services Sailing Club,
Tel: 301-9604



Shooting

Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range,
Surajkund Road, Tel: 698-6802

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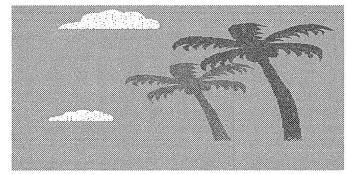


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An Oasis in the Foothills of the Himalayas



Set in the midst of a tea garden at an altitude of 5000 ft, the Chandpur Tea Estate is an ideal retreat from life in Delhi. It is surrounded by pine trees and lays in the lap of the Dhuladhar Range of the Western Himalayas in the Kangra Valley, in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The Sarin Family own the property and are the ideal hosts – you are treated like a special member of their family from the time you make your reservation.

The accommodation is excellent – either small cottages or insulated timber huts which are spotlessly clean, and very comfortable. During winter there is heating and during the warmer months you can open the windows (fitted with fly screens) and enjoy the fresh mountain air. Prices for double accommodation start at Rs 1100/- per night. The food is superb, and they will cater for all tastes and you really get incredible value for your money.

To get there, you can drive the 500 km via Chandigarh, or take an overnight train to Pathankot, then transfer to the narrow gauge train that takes you through wonderful countryside to Palampur. It is also possible to fly with Indian Air to Kangra.

My first visit was with my sister in January, in the midst of winter. Being intrepid travellers we opted to travel by train – that was an adventure in itself! We arrived at the plantation in the dark, so our first impressions came the following morning – breathtaking views of snow-capped mountains. It was very cold, but the sun was shining, and the air was crisp and clean. If you enjoy walking there is a great choice – from a stroll through the village and the adjoining areas or more invigorating hikes in the foothills. The villagers are friendly and they love having their photographs taken!

Our sightseeing included a visit to Dharamsala to see the Dalai Lama's temple and a beautiful little church - St John's in the Wilderness, which still conducts services. A walk around the graveyard is a must if you are interested in the history of the English in the late 18th, and early 19th centuries. We also visited the Norbulingka Institute, which is committed to preserving Tibetan art and culture. There are so many other places of interest in the area, and the Sarin family are more than happy to help you with all the information you need.

My second visit was late October, and this time I took my Mother with me. We travelled by car and broke the journey by staying overnight in Chandigarh. While there we visited the Rock Garden, which is entirely made out of recycled rubbish! No grass, but really fascinating as you identify all the items which have been used – from tin drums, hessian sacks, bathroom fittings, broken power points, crockery and even bangles. All this has been used to create waterfalls, animals and people! Quite unique.

After Chandigarh the drive becomes more scenic, there is so much to see, plus you share the road with carts pulled by oxen, water buffalo, donkeys, mules and ponies, as well as the usual bikes, cars, buses and trucks. The road is also used to move flocks of sheep and goats from one place to another so you are never bored during the drive.

The weather was perfect; the sun shone every day but was not too hot. We ate our breakfast in the garden watching the birds and butterflies. We had comfortable chairs set out in the garden for us and tea and coffee could be enjoyed at any time. We drank the plantation tea, which was delicious.

I plan to return there again in the spring, in fact I think when the hot weather reappears in April I may well "Head For The Hills" for an indefinite period.

For further information and reservations contact:

Karan Sarin, Chandpur Tea Estate, Palampur 176061 (Himachal Pradesh)
Phone: (01894) 30647 / 30173 Fax: 30417 Email: ksarin@nde.vsnl.net.in

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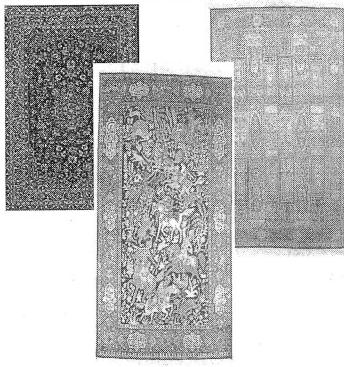
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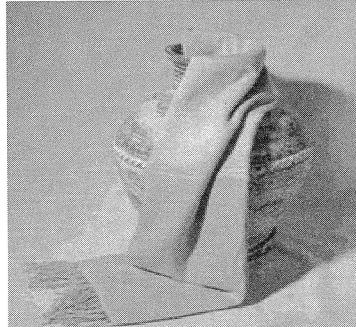
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Something to do

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The American Embassy School offers evening courses.

Contact the school for current programme/fees. Tel: 611-7140 or 611-7146.

Spring session: Feb./March.

Fall session: September

Aerobics

Mandy Dakin has been teaching aerobics for the last 10 years.

Trained in London, she spent the last 7 years teaching a variety of classes in a large chain of gyms based in 'the city' of London. Her aim is to make fitness fun and accessible to all. She is now teaching at the following times and venues:

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(Aqua Aerobics)



Tuesdays at ACSA

9 – 10 am

Wednesdays ACSA 6—7 pm
(Aqua Aerobics)

Tuesdays at the British High Commission 6.15 – 7.15 pm

Thursdays at ACSA 9 – 10 am

Thursdays at the British High Commission 6.15 – 7.15 pm

All classes are a mixture of mainly low impact and high impact moves followed by toning for the legs, abdominal, butt and upper body.

Tuesday evening's class at the BHC is body conditioning only. She hopes to begin aqua classes shortly. For further information call Mandy on 614-5818. Please bring water and a mat to the class.

Bridge

Ex-pat Bridge Group that meets on Mondays is looking for keen bridge players to join:

Call: Lynn Baynman 6877489

Rekha Sarin 684 0964

Annette O'Silva 506 4512



French Lessons

By a French national and graduate of Sorbonne-Paris University. Beginners or advanced levels. Call Anne Chaymotty-Devayani on 463- 6772, fax 463-3404

French speaking

Groupe Francophone de Delhi. All French speakers welcome (whatever your nationality, whatever your level). This group runs an extensive range of cultural events, tours, lectures and get-togethers. Call Hélène Cazalet on 464-3682.

Babies and Toddlers

To all Mums - feeling lonely, need a chat, or the kids are driving you up the wall? Call for social meetings for Mums and little kids, Ingrid Crookshanks on 98110 93622 or Manju Isaacs 649-1397.

Dance and Fitness Centre

In a superb wooden-floored studio near Lodhi Gardens, 21/A Amrita Shergill Marg. Classes include stretch, body toning, modern dance, jazz dance, aerobics and personalised fitness. Call Anne Devayani 463-6772.

DCWA

Delhi Commonwealth Women's Association is an international group which runs various social events as well as a clinic for the poor. They are always looking for items for the pharmacy. Call Amina Singh on 614-5986 or 614-6023 for details.

Delhi Christian Fellowship

Every Sunday at 9 am there is a church service at the Hyatt Regency Hotel with a Sunday School for children during the service plus bible study and a youth group.

German

Conversation Group

If you like speaking German, (any level) and want to keep up or deepen your knowledge, please join us. We meet every 2nd Monday at 3 pm. For information call Karin Weselscheid on 612-3405 or Brunhilde Gupta on 696-2708.

Glow

The Global League of Women is an organisation which promotes international friendships and understanding of different cultures. Call Serita Kakar 461-9627 for details.

Hindi Lessons



Chaya Bhattacharya is a qualified tutor and is also willing to teach on the Bhagavad Gita. Call 462- 4704.

Indian Cookery

Amita Khosla will teach you how to produce authentic Indian meals using ingredients available in the West. Call 469-2544 mornings.

Mah-Jong and Canasta Classes

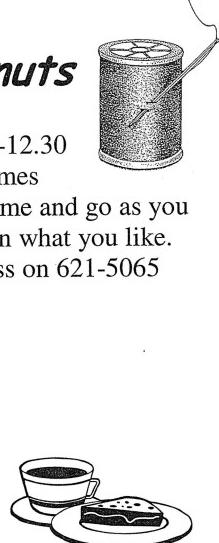
Lessons with Risham Chawla, 2-4pm on Wednesdays at N-21 Panchshila Park. Costs Rs 250 per session for a four-session course. Proceeds go to charity. Call 649-7025.

Naviyoti-Delhi Police Foundation

Runs a school and nursery in a slum area at Yamuna Pushta. Volunteer nurses, health and nursery workers are needed. For more information please contact Pamela Anderson on 410 3873

Needlenuts

Group meets Thursday 9.30-12.30 in different homes each week. Come and go as you please, work on what you like. Call Lynn Moss on 621-5065



Newcomers

Every Tuesday, 10-12 am, in Boardroom 2 at the Hyatt, to the right of the Ballroom, for an informative get-together over coffee and cakes. Oldies are also welcome to share their experiences.



Patchwork & Quilting Group

Meets every Monday morning, 10 am to 12 mid-day. Beginners welcome! Contact Phil Thomas on 506-5569.



Piano Lessons

American concert pianist Roberta Swedien has 28 years teaching experience and is giving lessons in her Defence Colony music studio. These lessons can include music history, theory, composition, form and analysis and performance as well as technique and repertoire. For intermediate and advanced students only. Call Roberta for details on 461-0918.

Tushita Meditation Centre

Women's spiritual development group, which meets every Wednesday at 10.30 am. They organise healing workshops on yoga, Reiki, tai-chi, etc. Teaching by Buddhist lama. Call Renuka Singh on 651- 8248 for details.

Scottish Country Dancing

Thursdays 8 pm in the British High Commission hall. Don't worry if you have two left feet! Contact Maureen Sachdev 463-3658 Ext. 207



Silk Painting

An introduction to silk painting. Learn the basic techniques using water based paint. Minimum time needed would be five mornings only. Instruction can be given in French, Dutch or English. If interested, please call Sylvie Kuenzi, phone 463-3644.

Spanish Lessons

Instituto Hispania offers classes in Spanish language, following a communicative methodology derived as a result of extensive number of studies in the field of teaching Spanish as a foreign language. The teachers are Spanish nationals as well as postgraduates from leading Indian and Spanish universities.

Y-10 Green Park, behind McDonalds, phone 696-8016, 8043

UNITED Nations Women's Association

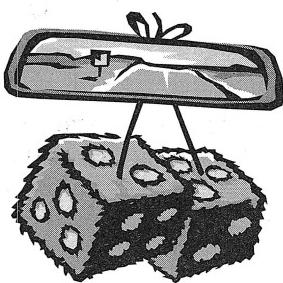
Offers a varied programme of informative and social activities, and supports a kindergarten for under-privileged children. For details call Nala on 615 3804 or Violetta on 696 4637

Yoga

User Friendly Hatha Yoga Mansoor and Susie Roy teach at Tushita Buddist Centre. Manoer is an International teacher with many years of experience in guiding students both in the practice of Yoga and meditation. Both Manoer and Susie teach the tradition of Swami Sivananda and Swami Vishnudevananda. Private and group classes can be

DRIVING IN DELHI

John Middleton, 10/11/1992



Most expatriates hire a driver. This is good. You can peruse the Times of India for convincing articles justifying current economic policy, or the Express for equally convincing discussions of why the policies are leading the country to rack and ruin. So occupied, you can avoid examining what's happening on the streets. But many also choose to drive themselves. These people are either cheap, saving eighty bucks a month on a driver's salary, or true adventurers searching for the ultimate experience in aggressive behaviour. For those new to the game, I'd like to offer a few principles of Delhi Driving Behaviour (DDB).

Principle 1: The Guy In Front Has the Right of Way. Most European drivers (Italians may be an exception), and all North Americans use their rear view mirrors. Well, in Delhi, NOT! In fact, rear view mirrors are mostly useful for making sure that those pakoras you had for lunch haven't stuck to your teeth. In Delhi, your job is to STAY OUT OF THE WAY of everything in front of you. Once you grasp this principle, you are well on the way to survival. You may even come to enjoy the ballet of the streets, in which, for example, you know for sure that the Maruti on your left is going to cut you off in order to overtake the bus, which is about to overtake the 3-wheeler, which is about to overtake the camel cart. All in two lanes, or sometimes one.

This principle is also of great help at stoplights, explaining why each vehicle strives mightily to get JUST SIX INCHES in front of you, and then cuts in across your front fender. Having established the position, the drivers/peddlers/riders rightfully

expect you to give way when the light changes. I like this one a lot, and have gotten quite good at it.

The principle is also a good guide to the proper use of your horn. You use it to let the guy in front know you are there (remember, he's not using his mirror). That's why you see the slogan, Horn Please!, on the back of many vehicles. I swear I have seen it on a camel cart. I do think Delhi drivers take this a little too seriously, especially when the traffic light changes (assuming you've had to stop), but you will soon grow into the custom and bang away merrily on the horn button at the slightest indication that EVERYONE WON'T GET OUT OF YOUR WAY RIGHT NOW!

Corollary a: The Guy Entering Has the Right of Way. This is a logical corollary to Principle 1. All drivers, bikers, walkers and elephant riders enter main roads without pausing or looking. No kidding! It's true and adjusting may save your car 2 or 3 years in a local body and fender shop. Delhi drivers are highly committed to this principle. A few weeks ago an NRI pal of mine, who has been driving in the UK for the past decade, entered my office with shaking hands and sweat on his brow. A Mercedes had backed out of a Jorbagh driveway at 25 kph and banged into his Maruti. The driver of the Mercedes was furious: "You should be expecting me to be backing out of my driveway!" was the nicest thing he said.

Corollary b: The Big Guy Has the Right of Way. Forget your notions of fair play, even in a socialist society. The food chain of the highway is at work in Delhi. Big wins! Buses and trucks have the right of way over cars, cars over 3-wheelers, and 3-wheelers over scooters, scooters over bicycles and bicycles over pedestrians. Cows, of course, are the exception to the rule: they have right of way over everything. I'm still researching the issue of elephants and trained bears.

Principle 2: Lane Markers, Road Dividers and Stoplights are Advisory Only. It takes a while to get used to seeing a solid phalanx of vehicles approaching you on BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD! Or, my favourite, to make a right turn on a divided road from the right lane at a stoplight only to realise that 2 cars and a scooter have

whipped around the road divider and are acquiring the right of way inside and in front of you (see Principle 1). Once you get used to this, the thrill of breaking your wimpy culture-specific traffic laws becomes enormously attractive. My personal best so far is to overtake 3 buses and some miscellaneous small traffic in the far right hand lane of Shanti Path. Once you've done something like this, you are well on your way to cross-cultural assimilation.

Stoplights have their own peculiar meaning. You stop if you have to. Otherwise, keep motoring on. Running red lights is a pleasure reserved to those of us fortunate enough to live in Delhi, and you should stock up on the experience before returning to the boring streets of home.

Principle 3: Right Turns Can Be Made from Anywhere. Knowing this rule can actually save you MINUTES of time. Take the Ring Road. (Actually, I'd advise against it, but sometimes it's unavoidable). Be clear that 4 lines of traffic will form for right turns, leaving you one Maruti's width to squeeze by on the left. Of course, if there is a bus stop – and there always is – the buses will make a right turn from the curb across all traffic lanes.

Principle 4: Elephants Don't Have Headlights. You probably knew this already, but night driving poses some really NEAT challenges. The closest I've come to disaster was the headlightless elephant coming the wrong way up an off ramp near the Oberoi Hotel. Like redlight running, these experiences should be treasured, although when you get home and tell your mother about them, she'll change the subject to the linen sale at the local shopping mall.

Observe these 4 simple principles, and especially the 2 corollaries, and driving in Delhi can be an exhilarating experience. On your side are some simple facts: (a) Ambassadors are slow; (b) most drivers are unarmed; and (c) you can always change your mind and get a driver.



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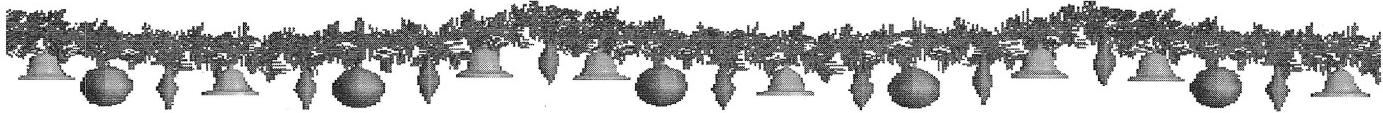
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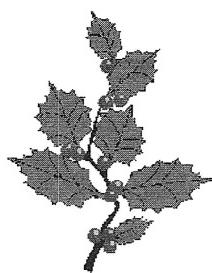
The Symbols and Traditions of Christmas

The Date of Christmas



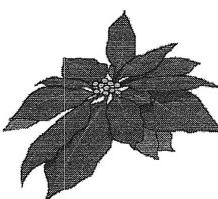
The idea to celebrate Christmas on December 25 originated in the 4th century. The Catholic Church wanted to eclipse the festivities of a rival pagan religion that threatened Christianity's existence. The Romans celebrated the birthday of their sun god, Mithras during this time of year. Although it was not popular, or even proper, to celebrate people's birthdays in those times, church leaders decided that in order to compete with the pagan celebration they would themselves order a festival in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Although the actual season of Jesus' birth is thought to be in either the spring or the fall, the date of December 25 was chosen as the official birthday celebration as Christ's Mass sot hat it would compete head on with the rival pagan celebration. Christmas was slow to catch on in America. The early colonists considered it a pagan ritual. The celebration of Christmas was even banned by law in Massachusetts in colonial days.

Mistletoe and Holly



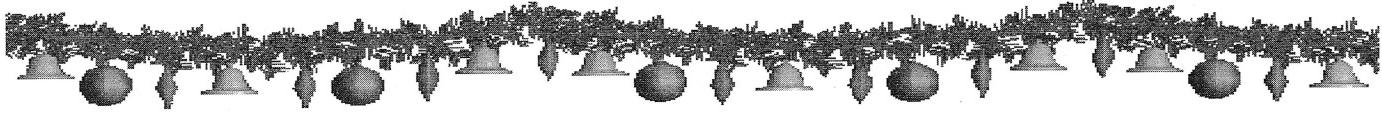
Two hundred years before the birth of Christ, the Druids used mistletoe to celebrate the coming of winter. They would gather this evergreen plant that is parasitic upon other trees and used it to decorate their homes. They believed the plant had special healing powers for everything from female infertility to poison ingestion. Scandinavians also thought of mistletoe as a plant of peace and harmony. They associated mistletoe with their goddess of love, Frigga. The custom of kissing under the mistletoe probably derived from this belief. The early church banned the use of mistletoe in Christmas celebrations because of its pagan origins. Instead, church fathers suggested the use of holly as an appropriate substitute for Christmas greenery.

Poinsettias

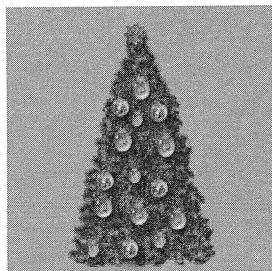


Poinsettias are native to Mexico. They were named after America's first ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett. He brought the plants to America in 1828. The Mexicans in the eighteenth century thought the plants were symbolic of the Star of Bethlehem. Thus the Poinsettia became associated with the Christmas season. The actual flower of the poinsettia is small and yellow. But surrounding the flower are large, bright red leaves, often mistaken for petals.





The Christmas tree .

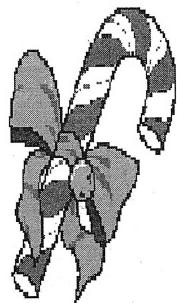


The Christmas tree originated in Germany in the 16th century. It was common for the Germanic people to decorate fir trees, inside and out, with roses, apples, and coloured paper. It is believed that Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, was the first to light a Christmas tree with candles. While coming home one dark winter's night near Christmas, he was struck with the beauty of the starlight shining through the branches of a small fir tree outside his home. He duplicated the starlight by using candles attached to the branches of his indoor Christmas tree. The Christmas tree was not widely used in Britain until the 19th century. It was brought to America by the Pennsylvania Germans in the 1820's

Xmas

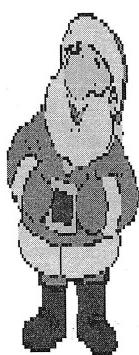
This abbreviation for Christmas is of Greek origin. The word for Christ in Greek is Xristos. During the 16th century, Europeans began using the first initial of Christ's name, "X" in place of the word Christ in Christmas as a shorthand form of the word. Although the early Christians understood that X stood for Christ's name, later Christians who did not understand the Greek language mistook "Xmas" as a sign of disrespect.

The Candy Cane



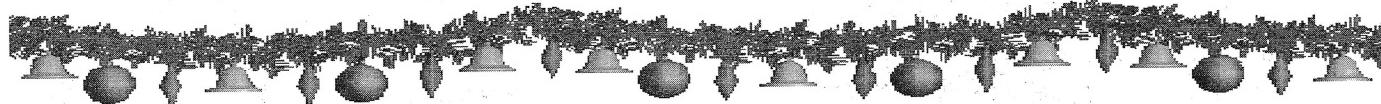
In the late 1800's a candy maker in Indiana wanted to express the meaning of Christmas through a symbol made of candy. He came up with the idea of bending one of his white candy sticks into the shape of a Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols of Christ's love and sacrifice through the Candy Cane. First, he used a plain white peppermint stick. The colour white symbolizes the purity and sinless nature of Jesus. Next, he added three small stripes to symbolize the pain inflicted upon Jesus before His death on the cross. There are three of them to represent the Holy Trinity. He added a bold stripe to represent the blood Jesus shed for mankind. When looked at with the crook on top, it looks like a shepherd's staff because Jesus is the shepherd of man. If you turn it upside down, it becomes the letter J symbolizing the first letter in Jesus' name. The candy maker made these candy canes for Christmas, so everyone would remember what Christmas is all about.

Santa Claus

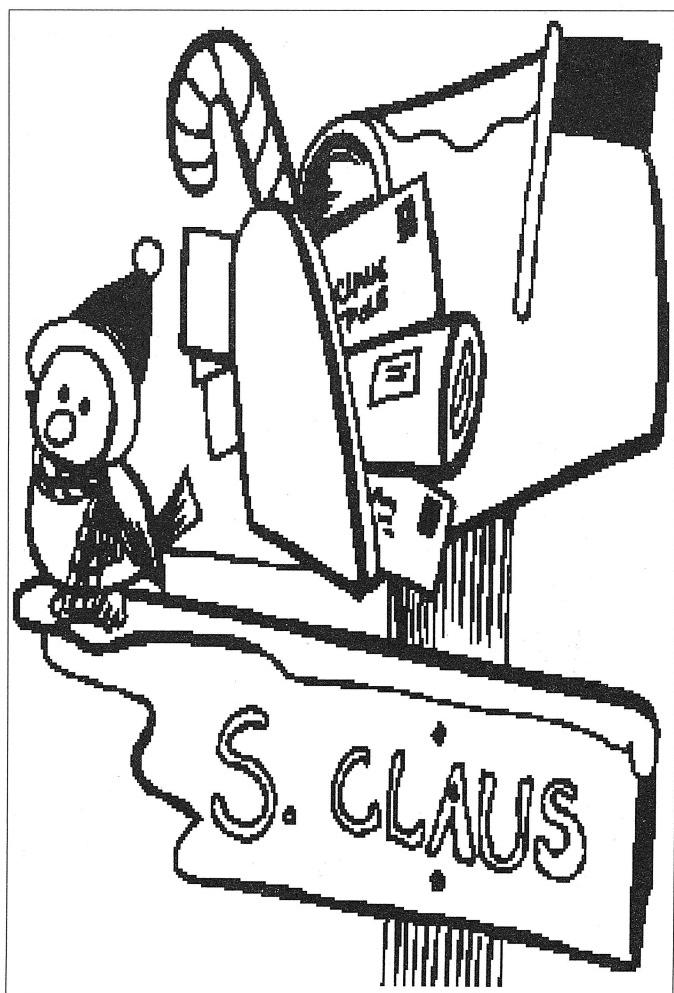


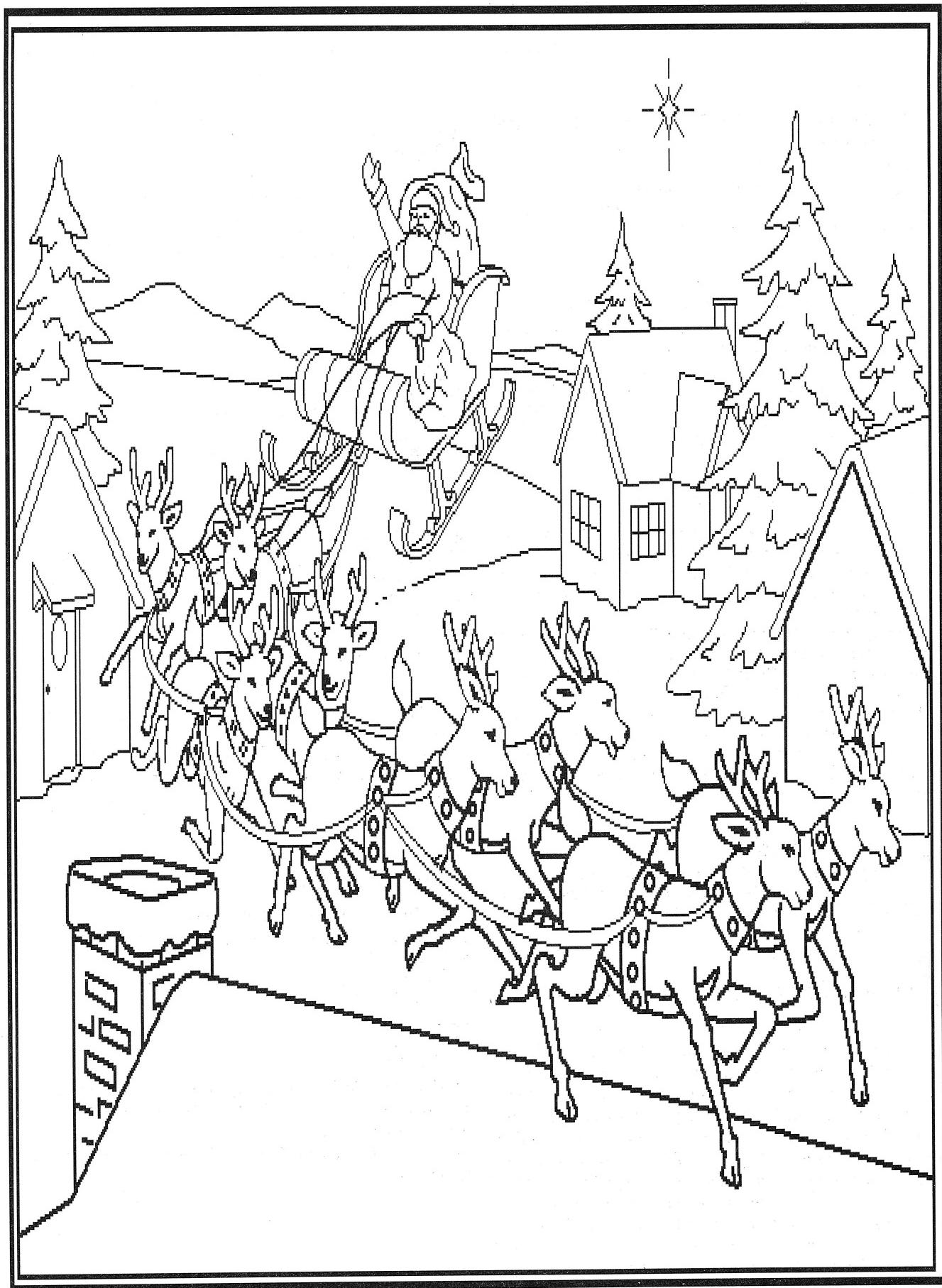
The original Santa Claus, St. Nicholas, was born in Turkey in the 4th century. He was very pious from an early age, devoting his life to Christianity. He became widely known for his generosity for the poor. But the Romans held him in contempt. He was imprisoned and tortured. But when Constantine became emperor of Rome, he allowed Nicholas to go free. Constantine became a Christian and convened the Council of Nicaea in 325. Nicholas was a delegate to the council. He is especially noted for his love of children and for his generosity. He is the patron saint of sailors, Sicily, Greece, and Russia. He is also, of course, the patron saint of children. The Dutch kept the legend of St. Nicholas alive. In 16th century Holland, Dutch children would place their wooden shoes by the hearth in hopes that they would be filled with a treat. The Dutch spelled St. Nicholas as Sint Nikolaas, which became corrupted to Sinterklaas, and finally, in Anglican, to Santa Claus. In 1822, Clement C. Moore composed his famous poem, "A Visit from St. Nick," which was later published as "The Night Before Christmas." Moore is credited with creating the modern image of Santa Claus as a jolly fat man in a red suit.

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Santa's Colouring Page





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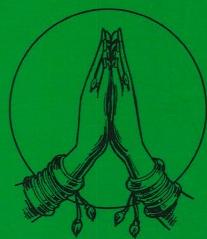
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